

Applic. No. 10/765,584

Amdt. dated August 22, 2005

Reply to Office action of May 20, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 8-14, 16-17, and 21-23 are now in the application. Claims 1, 2-5, and 8 have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 15, and 18-20 are being cancelled herewith. Claims 21-23 have been added. Support for claims 21-23 can be found on page 8, lines 7-22. No new matter has been added.

In item 26 on page 7 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner indicated that the title of the invention is not descriptive.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that a new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention. The title has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 11-20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Wank et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,828,901) (hereinafter "Wank") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and as a whole, the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, in order to facilitate prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 6 and 15.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

joining a plurality of components together, coating the plurality of components at the same time for providing the plurality of components with a coating of a flowable coating material, ... subjecting the assembly including the plurality of components and the coating to at least one further process operation.

The Wank reference discloses processing a single article (cap or transistor) (column 6, line 12 and line 50).

The reference does not show joining a plurality of components together, coating the plurality of components at the same time for providing the plurality of components with a coating of a

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flowable coating material, ... subjecting the assembly including the plurality of components and the coating to at least one further process operation, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Wank discloses processing a single item. Wank does not disclose joining a plurality of items, carrying out a simultaneous coating step on a plurality of articles, and encapsulating the joined items with the coating. Furthermore, Wank does not disclose subjecting an assembly to a further process operation before an encapsulation step. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, which recites joining a plurality of components together, coating the plurality of components at the same time for providing the plurality of components with a coating of a flowable coating material, ... subjecting the assembly including the plurality of components and the coating to at least one further process operation.

In item 19 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10 have been rejected as being obvious over Wank (U.S. Patent No. 4,828,901) in view of Stewart et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0170450) (hereinafter "Stewart") under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Stewart does not make up for the deficiencies of Wank. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10 are believed to be allowable as well.

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Even though claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10 are believed to be allowable, the following remarks pertain to the Stewart reference.

Stewart discloses mounting an electronic device to a printed circuit board with a thermoplastic adhesive. Accordingly, the components that are to be covered are disposed on a substrate. This is different than the present invention, where the components are completely coated and encapsulated.

In item 25 on page 6 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that the IDS filed in January and April of 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). Applicants respectfully note that the only information disclosure statements that were filed were on July 19, 2004 and on January 26, 2004.

Furthermore, any of the patents listed that were included in the statements were submitted with a corresponding English language patent or English language abstracts, which are the explanations of relevance. Therefore, the Examiner is kindly requested to consider these references.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is,

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therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 8-14, 16-17, and 21-23 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

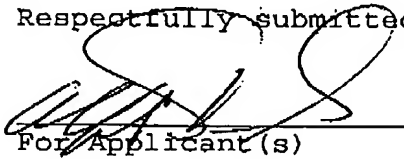
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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant(s)

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